GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2086
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
RELEASE OF SURPLUS STOCKS FOR MALNOURISHED PEOPLE
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government have been drawn to the news item captioned `why not privatise hunger` published in Hindustan Times, dated 14th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b),(c) & (d): the thrust of the news item is that the surplus foodgrains available should be used to help the poor through food for work and relief programmes and PDS.

The steps taken by the Government of India to ensure availability of foodgrains for the poor have been mentioned in the annexed statement.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPPLY TO PARTS (b),(c)&(d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2086 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 15.3.2002.

The Government has taken the following measures to make available the surplus stocks offoodgrains for the poor sections of the population:-

1.4.2000

i) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10 kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from April 2000.

2.11.2000

ii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at CIPs for BPL families for all welfareschemes, including SC/ST/OBC hostels scheme, implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

iii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for allotment to StateGovernments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as beggar homes, orphanages/Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

iv) A decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

1.12.2000

v) The allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families was revisedw.e.f 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As a result, the number of BPL families eligible for subsidised foodgrains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crore families.

25.12.2000

vi) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced for the one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. The scheme is now under implementation in all States/UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is given 25 kg. of foodgrains @ Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

1.1.2001

vii) The Food for Work Programme was introduced in eight drought affected States in January, 2001 by the Ministry of Rural Development. Under FFW the foodgrains are allocated to State Governments free of cost.The programme has been subsequently extended to cover floods and other national calamities. From January, 2001 till 7.3.2002 39.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under FFW have been allotted to 11 States.

29.1.2001

viii) The Government of India allocated one lakh MTs of foodgrains for distribution in theearthquake-affected areas of Gujarat on 29 January 2001.

1.5.2001

ix) It was decided to make additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to droughtaffected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @ 20 kg perfamily per month for a period of three months in the current financial year. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan havealready been allocated additional foodgrains aggregating 19.53 lakh tonnes. The Govt. of Bihar has been given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rate for flood relief.

12.7.2001

x) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 20 kg. per family per month to 25 kg. per family per month.

xi) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice for APL families was reduced and BPLCIPs retained as under which will be valid till 31.3.2002.

(Rs. per quintal)

	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	610
Rice	565	830

15.8.2001

xii) The Prime Minister announced the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)on 15th August 2001. The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development on 25.9.2001. Under theprogramme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 6.3.2002 has been 30.82 lakh MTs.

2. Besides the above measures, the Government is distributing foodgains free of cost/ at subsidized BPL rates under a number of welfare schemes like Annapurna, Mid-day-Meal Scheme and supply of foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC. hostels.

3. The Government is also implementing a number of programmes for alleviation of malnutrition among the people. These include the Integrated Child Development Services,Nutrition Education Programmes and Reproductive and Child Health Programme.The National nutrition Policy adopted by the Government in 1993 also lays emphasis on addressing problem of malnutrition in vulnerable groups through a multi-sectoral strategy.

Increase in total offtake of foodgrains

4. The offtake of wheat and rice from the Central Pool during the first 10 months of thecurrent financial year, 2001-02, was 230.25 lakh tonnes as against 136.83 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of the last financial year, i.e., 2000-01, thus registering an increase of 68.27%. The total increase in the offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during this period has been 10.98 lakh tonnes.The increase in the open market sales (domestic) has been 32.82 lakh tonnes, while the increase under welfare schemes has been 22.09 lakh tonnes.
It may also be pointed out that there has been a significant increase in offtake in respect of BPL as may be seen below:-

(figures in lakh tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02(upto 31.1.2002)
BPL	61.70	69.94	95.35	91.64